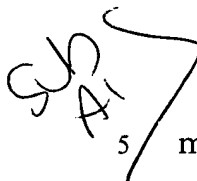


## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5  1. A method for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in voice-recognition systems, comprising the step of:

using a switch to switch between a command-mode of operation and a text-mode of operation in a voice-recognition system, wherein the command-mode is used to issue commands to a computer operated by the voice-recognition system and the text-mode is used to insert text into a software application using the voice-recognition system.

2. An apparatus for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in voice-recognition systems, comprising:

15 a switch for switching between a command-mode of operation and a text-mode of operation in a voice-recognition system, wherein the command-mode is used to issue commands to a computer operated by the voice-recognition system and the text-mode is used to insert text into a software application using the voice-recognition system.

20 3. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is used with a microphone that enables the voice-recognition system to receive spoken

commands and spoken text, the microphone only being switched on when the switch is in either the command-mode or the text-mode.

4. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the switch is a  
5 mechanical switch.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the switch is a spring-  
controlled slide switch.

10 6. The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the spring-controlled  
slide switch has a first operating position at which the microphone is turned off,  
a second operating position at which the microphone is turned on in the  
command-mode, and a third operating position at which the microphone is  
turned on in the text-mode.

15 7. The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the first position is a  
default position such that when a user slides the switch from the first position to  
the second position and then releases the switch, the switch returns to the first  
position, and when the user slides the switch from the first position to the third  
20 position and then releases the switch, the switch returns to first position.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the switch is a software switch that switches between the command-mode and the text-mode using a spoken command.

5 9. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein at least one button is used to switch between the command-mode and the text-mode.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is a computer mouse.

10 11. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is a microphone.

15 12. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus combines the functionality of both a microphone and a mouse/cursor control device.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.

20 14. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is coupled to a computer using a cable.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus operates at an infrared frequency.

5 16. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus operates at a radio frequency.

17. A system for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in voice-recognition systems, comprising:

10 a computer;

a microphone coupled to the computer; and

a voice-recognition software, the system enabling a user to switch between a command-mode of operation and a text-mode of operation in a voice-recognition system, wherein the command-mode is used to issue commands to a computer operated by the voice-recognition system and the text-mode is used to insert text into a software application using the voice-recognition system.

18. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the system uses a mechanical switch to switch between the command-mode and the text-mode.

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19. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the system uses a software switch to switch between the command-mode and the text-mode.

20. The system according to Claim 17, wherein when the voice-recognition system is being operated in the command-mode and is unable to understand a spoken command, the system prompts the user to select the intended command from a plurality of commands displayed on a display device  
5 by the system which the system believes the user intended by the spoken command.

21. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the user selects the intended command using a mechanical input device.  
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22. The system according to Claim 17, wherein the user selects the intended command using a spoken command.